

'Only A Catastrophe?'***Fulbright Hits 'Apathy' In Peril***

Philadelphia, April 20 (AP)—Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.) tonight deplored what he called public "apathy and unconcern" while the United States "is clearly undergoing the grayest test in its history."

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the situation demands of the American people "a self-examination" to arouse them to their responsibilities of world leadership.

He said that "it may be that only a catastrophe — at the least, a national crisis obvious to all — will bring the country into harmony with its responsibilities."

"Strong Leadership Returned"

In a speech before the American Philosophical Society, Fulbright said that in Washington "there is an impression that strong leadership and direction have been returned to the conduct of our affairs."

While this is a first step toward development of "a national appreciation of this country's true position and function in the society of nations," Fulbright said, Presidential leadership is not enough.

"His leadership can be effective only if he is able to bring about,

with the help of all of us, a consensus among our people," Fulbright added.

The Senator said a nation can conceive and execute a foreign policy that "is responsive, courageous and creative" only to the extent it is understood and supported by the people.

He suggested that the American people as well as their Government recognize and accept world leaders and "engage all of our faculties" in the contest with Russia.

"As national problems grow in number and urgency," he continued, "the act of voluntary concurrence in the national interest must come more often."

"The programs of our President are as strong and responsive as

the people themselves are strong and responsive," Fulbright said.

The United States, he continued, has suffered a let down since the Korean War days.

He said the people have been preoccupied with "bigger cars, bigger parking lots, bigger corporate structures, bigger farms, bigger drug stores, bigger super markets, bigger motion picture screens" but have been unable or unwilling to "identify themselves with something as vast as the United States."

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Fulbright said he fully subscribed to the tone of Mr. Kennedy's inaugural address when the President said: "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for the country."

"I wish I could say that the burden of the new Administration's program was in line with the tone of the President's possibly historic first statement," the Senator added. "It is not, though, and of necessity probably could not be."

"Nevertheless, in Washington at least, there is an impression that strong leadership and direction have been returned to the conduct of our affairs," he said.